

EXHIBIT 19

CATHERINE ONEIL
FISCHER vs GEICO

April 24, 2025

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KEITH FISCHER, MICHAEL
O'SULLIVAN, JOHN MOESER,
LOUIS PIA, THOMAS BARDEN,
CONSTANCE MANGAN, and CHARISE
JONES, individually and on
Behalf of all others similarly
Situating,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

No. 23 Civ. 02848
(GRB) (ARL)

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INSURANCE
COMPANY d/b/a GEICO,

Defendant.

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF CATHERINE O'NEIL

New York, New York

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Reported by:
Yaffa Kaplan
JOB NO. 12744863

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April 24, 2025

9:40 a.m.

Videotaped Deposition of CATHERINE
O'NEIL, held at the offices of Duane
Morris, 1540 Broadway, New York, New York,
pursuant to Notice, before Yaffa Kaplan, a
Notary Public of the State of New York.

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

OUTTEN & GOLDEN LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

685 Third Avenue, 25th Floor

New York, New York 10017

BY: MICHAEL SCIMONE, ESQ.

ZARKA DSOUZA, ESQ.

DUANE MORRIS LLP

Attorneys for Defendant

190 South LaSalle Street, Suite 3700

Chicago, Illinois 60603

BY: GREGORY TSONIS, ESQ.

JUSTIN DONOHO, ESQ.,

(Via videoconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

RICHARD MORALES - Videographer

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2 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED,
3 by and between counsel for the respective
4 parties hereto, that the filing, sealing and
5 certification of the within deposition shall
6 be and the same are hereby waived;

7 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
8 that all objections, except as to the form
9 of the question, shall be reserved to the
10 time of the trial;

11 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED
12 that the within deposition may be signed
13 before any Notary Public with the same force
14 and effect as if signed and sworn to before
15 the Court.
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1 C. O'Neil

2 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Good morning, we are
3 now on the record. The time is 9:40 a.m.,
4 Eastern time on April 24, 2025.

5 This begins Media Number 1 to the
6 videotaped deposition of Catherine O'Neil,
7 taken in the matter of Keith Fischer versus
8 Government Employees Insurance Company.

9 My name is Richard Morales, I am your
10 videographer today; the court reporter is
11 Yaffa Kaplan. We are representing Esquire
12 Deposition Solutions.

13 Counsel will you please introduce
14 yourselves and affiliations, and the witness
15 will be sworn.

16 MR. SCIMONE: Michael Scimone with
17 Outten & Golden, representing the plaintiff.

18 MS. DSOUZA: Zarka Dsouza with Outten &
19 Golden, also representing the plaintiffs.

20 MR. TSONIS: Gregory Tsonis on behalf of
21 Government Employees Insurance Company,
22 defendant.

23 MR. DONOHO: Hi, this is Justin Donoho,
24 also on behalf of GEICO.

25 C A T H E R I N E O ' N E I L , called as a

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1 C. O'Neil

2 witness, having been duly sworn by a Notary Public,
3 was examined and testified as follows:

4 EXAMINATION BY

5 MR. TSONIS:

6 Q. What is your name and address?

7 A. Catherine O'Neil, 27 Ware Street,
8 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138.

9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: You may proceed.

10 Q. Good morning, Ms. O'Neil.

11 A. Good morning.

12 Q. My name is Greg Tsonis. I am an
13 attorney for the defendant in this lawsuit,
14 Government Employees Insurance Company. I will be
15 taking your deposition today. Okay?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Just -- there will be, I am sure, a
18 number of acronyms today. But do you know if I say
19 GEICO, I am referring to the defendant in this
20 lawsuit?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. And you understand that in this lawsuit
23 a group of plaintiffs are suing GEICO for
24 violations of both Federal Law, the Fair Labor
25 Standards Act, and New York State law?

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2 will say, let's say -- let's say I estimate that
3 each case takes about seven hours, but it actually
4 only takes you six hours because you are so
5 efficient, and you get 22 cases done instead of 20.
6 Then I would estimate that time as 22 times
7 seven hours, instead of 22 times six hours. So you
8 get more overtime.

9 So you get rewarded for being more
10 efficient; relative to someone who did it in seven
11 hours per case, and therefore had only 20 cases
12 done.

13 Q. Sure. So -- if I am also less
14 efficient. So explain to me how, in your model,
15 the slacker; right? That's not as efficient,
16 doesn't get attributed; right?

17 Someone that's less than average but is
18 assigned the average number of hours, isn't it true
19 that it would overstate the hours worked for that
20 person?

21 A. No. No, because -- well, tell me
22 exactly what you mean by slacker and I will tell
23 you what's going to happen for them.

24 Q. So let's say -- using the simplest
25 method you have, your average says investigators

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2 close ten cases per month. Right? And so --

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. -- and to close that ten cases, we
5 assign a value of, you know, four hours per case?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. If I close 20 cases, but I can actually
8 do them faster, it doesn't take me four hours, your
9 model is assigning me 80 hours of work in a week
10 where I didn't work 80 hours if I did them faster.
11 Right?

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. If it takes me only two hours?

14 A. That's one of the reasons we don't just
15 do the dumbest one. We say, what kind of cases did
16 you do.

17 Q. Right. We are not talking about other
18 regressions at the moment.

19 A. But -- yes.

20 Q. In this basic one --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- if I am more efficient because I
23 close more cases, but I did it, in actuality as an
24 individual, in less time or half the time than the
25 average person would do; right?

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2 In your model, I am assigned more hours
3 work than what I, in actuality, did. Right?

4 A. That's right.

5 MR. SCIMONE: Just remember slow the
6 pace down a little bit for the -- for the
7 court reporter. Sorry.

8 Q. Conversely, if it took me more time, if
9 instead of four hours a case, it was actually
10 taking me six but I am only getting assigned four
11 now under your model. So I am under -- I have --
12 the hours assigned to me in your model are -- under
13 represent what I actually worked. Right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So just to be clear: In your model,
16 it's your testimony that if you are, I guess, the
17 prototypical, the composite-average investigator,
18 that the model would accurately model the time that
19 you spent.

20 Is that your contention?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If I am an investigator though --

23 A. I apologize for interrupting, but can I
24 just revise what I just said?

25 If you are the average worker, like, and

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2 it's the average week; right? Even the average
3 worker would have variations one week to the next,
4 or one month to the next, because just -- cases all
5 close in the same month or something. There is
6 going to be some natural variation.

7 Q. Sure. But there might not be a natural
8 variation. For example, if I am -- if I am really
9 efficient because I am good at what I do, or I have
10 been doing it for a long time, I am going to be
11 consistently better than average. Right? I am
12 going to be consistently, month over month, more
13 efficient.

14 A. That is possible.

15 Q. So in your model, I am consistently
16 overassigned the number of work hours in your model
17 than what I actually worked in that scenario.
18 Right?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. It doesn't balance out. Because I am
21 not, for example, varying above and below; I am
22 consistently on one side of --

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And the same would be true, excuse me,
25 of the converse.

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2 allocated damages in your model wouldn't be
3 accurate because they don't meet the average?

4 A. It's also possible that he was slower
5 for certain things, but faster for other things. I
6 don't know that either.

7 But yes, you are right. That would be a
8 drag on him.

9 Q. Right. And because you are not --
10 because you are applying the average, you are
11 essentially combining the population that we have
12 talked about, the sample data that you would like;
13 200 people into one, you know, composite
14 investigator. Is that right?

15 A. That's exactly right.

16 Q. And you use that composite investigator
17 to the data for the actual investigators, and you
18 basically are assigning, based on the work that
19 they completed, how much time the average
20 investigator would have taken to do this work?

21 A. That's right.

22 So here is another -- sorry to interrupt
23 you, but there is another scenario. Which is that
24 somebody takes two weeks of holiday in one month.
25 So they get half the normal amount of work, but

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2 coefficient for the EUO-type of activity that would
3 be like, This takes four hours. It's a heavy lift.

4 And that -- that's great. Because that
5 would mean that going back and through the other
6 people for the other weeks, every time somebody got
7 a EUO, they would be rewarded with a four-hour
8 imputed time.

9 Q. So -- okay. So do you have, I guess,
10 any understanding of how many cases did or did not
11 require EUOs that, for example, a field
12 investigator would have?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you have an understanding of the
15 changes in the EUO process over time?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you have an understanding of how
18 technologically the process by which EUOs were
19 conducted changed?

20 A. This might refer to the fact that during
21 COVID some things were done over Zoom.

22 So, yes. So one of the things that
23 occurs -- occurs to me, and one of the plans I had
24 for this model, is that -- that there are certain
25 things that might have been special in a special

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2 situation like COVID.

3 So if -- during that era, we could hand
4 tune the coefficient. If it didn't take four hours
5 on average because they didn't have to drive to see
6 a person, like, you could just move it down.

7 And we would have to use testimony for
8 that purpose, to hand tune it from four hours to
9 two hours, or whatever it is. I am just saying
10 numbers. But it would require an actual
11 investigation.

12 But that's one of the benefits of having
13 that model that separates things out by -- by
14 activity type.

15 And also, that's the kind of thing --
16 remember when we were talking about how the
17 different models would give us slightly different
18 answers? That's an explanation for why different
19 models would give us different answers. Because
20 one of them will be sensitive to this, and one of
21 them won't.

22 So we will be like, Oh, wait. Is this
23 during COVID? It is. Okay. So let's believe this
24 one in this time period.

25 So we want to be as accurate as

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2 possible. And different -- the fact that we have
3 four different ways of looking at it means we could
4 be more accurate.

5 Q. I want to follow up. And I recognize
6 you wouldn't know what an exact amount might look
7 like --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- but you talked about hand tuning that
10 time period based on testimony.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Explain to me what you mean by using
13 testimony to hand tune?

14 A. I would try to figure out the delta
15 between how much time does it take to do an EUO
16 when you drive there, and how much time does it
17 take to do an EUO when you do it on Zoom.

18 Q. When you say using testimony, are you
19 proposing that you would just ask plaintiffs?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. How much time did it used to take you,
22 and how much time it would take you after that
23 change?

24 A. Well, I wouldn't ask; the lawyers would.

25 Q. Fair enough.

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2 in terms of the transcript turnaround time, so
3 I think they placed an order with you.

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 3:44 p.m.
5 We are off the record.

6 (Time noted: 3:44 p.m.)

7 _____.
8 CATHERINE O'NEIL

9
10 Subscribed and sworn to before me
11 this ____ day of _____, 2025.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

: ss.

COUNTY OF QUEENS)

I, YAFFA KAPLAN, a Notary Public
within and for the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That CATHERINE O'NEIL, the witness
whose deposition is hereinbefore set forth,
was duly sworn by me and that such
deposition is a true record of the
testimony given by the witness.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this
action by blood or marriage, and that I am
in no way interested in the outcome of this
matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 28th day of April, 2025.



YAFFA KAPLAN